



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
New York District



Andrew J. Spano, Westchester County Executive  
County Board of Legislators  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**BRONX RIVER BASIN**

**ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION STUDY**

**NEW YORK**

**FEASIBILITY PHASE STUDY**

Planning Division

BRONX RIVER BASIN, NY  
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION STUDY  
FEASIBILITY PHASE STUDY

This notice announces the initiation of a Federally-funded feasibility level study for the comprehensive examination of the environmental restoration needs for the Bronx River Basin, New York. The study is authorized by House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Resolution dated March 24, 1998, Docket Number 897.

In response to local and state requests, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (Corps) performed a Reconnaissance Study and issued a report in October 1999 that demonstrated a Federal interest and the need for a more detailed Feasibility Study of the Bronx River Basin. The purpose of the feasibility study is to develop and evaluate alternatives for implementing long-term solutions to ecosystem degradation and water resources problems in the Bronx River Basin, New York. Restoration opportunities that meet Federal criteria will either be recommended for Corps construction or, if additional analysis is required, will be recommended for further study. Restoration opportunities that do not meet Federal criteria may be recommended to other agencies or local stakeholders.

The Westchester County Department of Planning (non-Federal partner) and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (non-Federal partner), have identified two primary water resource needs to be addressed in the feasibility study: (1) a single comprehensive basin-wide analysis of ecosystem restoration opportunities to be used as an implementation plan for future restoration within the basin and (2) ecosystem restoration at sites that may aid in improvement of water quality and aquatic habitat and (3) ecosystem restoration at sites identified as priority restoration sites.

The Comprehensive Bronx River Basinwide Watershed Management Plan (Comprehensive Basinwide Watershed Management Plan) will be a component of the feasibility report that addresses the overall aquatic ecosystem needs and opportunities of the basin. During the reconnaissance analysis, the non-Federal partners, Federal and non-Federal agencies, citizen groups, and other stakeholders identified the need for a holistic basin-wide assessment of aquatic ecosystem problems that includes chronic systematic ecosystem degradation problems within the estuary. They also identified potential ecosystem restoration opportunities without having formulated site preferences for these opportunities. The Comprehensive Basinwide Watershed Management Plan will address systematic degradation by providing the basin-wide framework within which the interconnectedness and dynamics of natural and man-made systems can be incorporated into the identification of future restoration opportunities. This report will address habitat fragmentation and degradation by identifying combinations of restoration opportunities in the context of watershed and regional ecosystem enhancement. The Comprehensive Basinwide Watershed Management Plan will support the recommendation of additional site-specific restoration projects for feasibility level analysis and will provide a Project Management Plan and Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement for projects in the Federal interest.

The feasibility study report will identify, screen, and formulate alternative plans for priority site-specific projects to restore degraded aquatic ecosystems and improve water quality in the river basin. All analyses and designs performed for priority sites will also be incorporated into the Comprehensive Basinwide Watershed Management Plan. Any projects identified at priority sites that meet Federal budgetary criteria will be recommended for construction. Opportunities to expedite the construction of

restoration alternatives, including interim construction authorities, will be explored. Also, the comprehensive basin-wide analysis of ecosystem restoration opportunities may identify additional areas for future Corps partnering in solutions to ecosystem degradation and water resources problems in the study area. Additional projects that are found to be in the Federal interest will be recommended for feasibility level analysis.

The non-Federal sponsors, Westchester County Department of Planning (WCDOP) and New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), will equally share the cost of the Feasibility Study with the Corps. Congressional and local support for this study has been strong and active in maintaining Federal involvement.

The Corps and its non-Federal partners recognize that local knowledge of restoration needs and problems is an invaluable aid in formulating solutions. Therefore, we request and welcome any pertinent information on ecosystem restoration, including wetland creation and improvement of sediment quality and any other related areas of concern, about the Bronx River Basin from Federal, State, local agencies, and the public including local interest groups and civic organizations. A wide and inclusive level of public involvement and participation throughout the entire study period is desired.

Interested parties should send all comments and information to:

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